

USEPA/OECA/OC  
State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) 2000-2001  
New Mexico: Class V UIC Compliance Assistance  
Quarter 2, 2002 Report  
Uploaded to Internet 1/29/03

---

**Class V UIC Compliance Assistance Grant  
Assistance Agreement No. EA-986759-01  
Progress Report for January 1 - March 31, 2002**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) is pleased to provide the following report on the third quarter of state fiscal year FY02 (January 1 through March 31, 2002). The tasks listed below correspond to the tasks enumerated in the EPA-approved work plan.

**Task 1 - Develop Guidelines and General Permit:**

Accomplishments

- As described in the previous report, Fred Kalish, the GWQB team leader for domestic waste sites, sought input from an advisory group and developed draft design criteria and operation/maintenance guidelines for large capacity septic tank/leachfield systems. Fred has also developed a preliminary draft General Permit for these systems that incorporates the design criteria and guidelines. In the last quarter, Fred completed the final draft *Design Criteria for Large Capacity Septic Tank-Leachfield Systems* and the final draft *Guidelines for Operation and Maintenance of Large Capacity Septic Tank-Leachfield Systems* (e-files of drafts attached).

Goals for Next Quarter

- The GWQB will do a mass mailing of the draft design criteria and guidelines to solicit public comment. GWQB will receive and review the comments before the end of the next quarter. During July-September, these documents will be revised and finalized based on comments and the preliminary draft General Permit will be revised accordingly.

**Task 2 - Develop Outreach Materials:**

Accomplishments

- Miriam Rotkin-Ellman regularly sets aside time to create public outreach materials. Miriam has completed one public outreach document entitled *How to Sample a Monitoring Well* (e-file attached) and has a draft informational brochure entitled *Large Capacity Septic Systems and Ground Water Quality* in GWQB internal review.

Goals for Next Quarter

- In the next quarter, Miriam will finalize the draft brochure entitled *Large Capacity Septic Systems and Ground Water Quality*. She will also start a guide to completing a Discharge Permit application.

**Task 3 - Identify Un-Permitted Sites:**

Accomplishments

- A preliminary list of 21 un-permitted large capacity septic systems has been compiled (e-file attached).

#### Goals for Next Quarter

- The preliminary list of un-permitted sites and a letter soliciting information on these and other un-permitted sites will be sent to the NMED field offices in the next quarter.

#### **Task 4 - Perform Targeted Compliance Assistance:**

##### Accomplishments

- As discussed in the previous progress report, Miriam was hired by the GWQB to work on this project and her permitting caseload is primarily composed of large capacity septic systems. In addition, many previously unassigned sites are now assigned to others within the program;
- Letters of Non-Compliance were sent to 13 large capacity septic system sites in an attempt to gain voluntary compliance for violations of their Discharge Permits;
- Compliance inspections were performed at 15 large capacity septic system sites;
- Discharge Permits were issued to 1 new large capacity septic system and renewed for 7 such systems;
- 1 un-permitted site was sent notification that a Discharge Permit is required.

#### Goals for Next Quarter

- Follow-up on Letters of Non-Compliance through compliance inspections, phone calls, etc. and elevate to a Notice of Violation, if needed;
- Conduct compliance inspections at 12 large capacity septic system sites; and
- Renew Discharge Permits for 8 large capacity septic system sites.

#### **Task 5 - Measure Compliance Assistance Outcomes:**

##### Accomplishments

- Prior to beginning this project, Miriam completed a separate study on large capacity septic systems funded by the EPA UIC program. Miriam successfully adapted that database for use as a tracking spreadsheet that will track compliance assistance actions and compliance outcomes. The attached excel spreadsheet shows the proposed tracking system and includes the compliance baseline data as of the end of July 2001.

#### Goals for Next Quarter

- The tracking spreadsheet will be placed on a network server and shared among program staff. Staff will update the spreadsheet by the end of May to reflect compliance activities performed and outcomes observed for the time period of August 1, 2001 thru May 31, 2002.
- Once the spreadsheet is populated with information, compliance assistance outcomes for the preceding 10 months (August 2001-May 2002) will be measured and reported. Based on this trial run of the spreadsheet to generate measures, we will refine and finalize the compliance tracking spreadsheet and finalize the outcome measures by the end of the next quarter.